

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

In response to the Office Action dated March 22, 2007, claim 1 has been amended.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-8 are now pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

The indication that claim 8 is allowable is acknowledged and appreciated.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103

I. Claims 1-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bosy (USPN 6,394,300).

II. The present invention is directed to a lock mechanism in which the elastic force of at least one of at least two lock member sets is greater than that of the other lock member sets. In Bosy, the cover 22 has two 1st secured members 24 and 2nd secured member 28 which is located at the opposite side of the 1st secured members 24. Also, the elastic force of the 2nd secured member 28 is grater than that of the 1st secured members 24, and the 2nd member is located at the center of the cover. Bosy, however, doe not disclose that the 1st and 2nd secured members are arranged so that they are aligned in a line along a width direction of the cover 22.

To expedite prosecution, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*:

..., wherein

...

the at least two lock member sets are provided at an opposite side of an opening and closing axis of the opening and closing member.

the at least two lock member sets are arranged so that each lock member set is aligned in a line approximately along a width direction of the opening and closing member...

Attention is directed to the attached APPENDIX showing Figs. 1 to 4 with ● indicating the stronger lock member set (i.e., the lock member set whose elastic force is greater), and ○ denoting the weaker lock member set. It should be noted that ● and ○ are aligned in a line approximately along the width direction of the cover and are provided at opposite sides of the opening and closing axis of the cover.

Fig. 4 of the APPENDIX shows the area in which ● and ○ can be located.

It is clear that Bosy does not disclose or suggest the features now recited in amended independent claim 1, and in particular, the at least two lock member sets are provided at an opposite side of an opening and closing axis of the opening and closing member, and the at least two lock member sets are arranged so that each lock member set is aligned in a line approximately along a width direction of the opening and closing member. Consequently, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Bosy, as are dependent claims 2-7.

III. In view of the above, the allowance of claims 1, 2 and 4-7, as amended, is respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Edward J. Wise (Reg. No. 34,523) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Attention is directed to the attached APPENDIX showing Figs. 1 to 4 with • indicating the stronger lock member set (i.e., the lock member set whose elastic force is greater), and O denoting the weaker lock member set. It should be noted that • and O are aligned in a line approximately along the width direction of the cover and are provided at opposite sides of the opening and closing axis of the cover.

Fig. 4 of the APPENDIX shows the area in which • and O can be located.

It is clear that Bosy does not disclose or suggest the features now recited in amended independent claim 1, and in particular, the at least two lock member sets are provided at an opposite side of an opening and closing axis of the opening and closing member, and the at least two lock member sets are arranged so that each lock member set is aligned in a line approximately along a width direction of the opening and closing member. Consequently, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Bosy, as are dependent claims 2-7.

III. In view of the above, the allowance of claims 1, 2 and 4-7, as amended, is respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

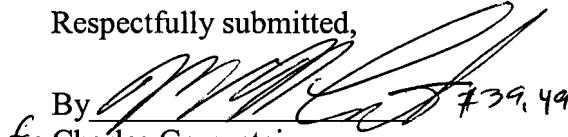
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Edward J. Wise (Reg. No. 34,523) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: May 22, 2007

Attachment: Appendix

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